

The Goodwill Messenger

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Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Candle at the Window Pastor's Message

Thoreau said, ""Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?"

SEEING THROUGH EACH OTHER'S EYES:

When Robin Wall Kimmerer spoke recently at Greenfield High School, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, she taught us how to look through two eyes—the eyes of indigenous wisdom and the eyes of science. Robin is "a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation." She is the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and since hearing her talk I have been trying on the two eyes of seeing in many contexts. She told us, it's not about blending the two perspectives. It's about holding each and keeping them in conversation.

As Journey Camp begins—a peace camp I've directed for 29 years—I ask the campers to put on glasses that allow them to see the essence of each person, their goodness, their importance. A word from India, "namaste," encompasses that way of seeing, and we start each day singing to each other. "Namaste, namaste, I see the good in you. I'm so glad you're here." That short song sets an intention that ripples through the camp. Among our six social agreements and guidelines is "Friendly Talking." That means to treat everyone in a friendly way, including yourself. Other agreements speak of the power to say "Stop, I don't like that," or talk things out, but this primary cloud of care is foundational.

In the fullness of summer, in this full spectrum light, may we listen to each other from that place of pausing to hear and value, and looking through each other's eyes.

Sarah
Rev. Sarah Pirtle
Village Church

New Look for the Website!

We have launched a new website for the Village Church. There's not only an updated look, but new pages about the church and our history that reflect how the congregation has changed. There is also now a blog, updated contact information, and a link to use should you wish to donate. Please visit the site and share the news with others you think would be interested!

Much thanks to Josh Wachtel for his work on putting this together. It looks great.

<https://cummingtonvillagechurch.org/>

No Church July 3

Sarah is off on other projects and Josh will be spending time with family. Church will be back on July 10th for 5 straight weeks as we host the Greenwood Music Camp. Come and hear great music!

Greenwood Returns!

We are happy to announce that for the first time since 2019, the Greenwood Music Camp will be coming to the Village Church. For five Sundays starting on July 10, they will be gracing our sanctuary with their music. See the poster on page 2 for more information.

In These Hills

Greetings, Well, it has been awhile, but I want to let you know that Episode 17 my interview with John Walker Jr. and Shevaun Keogh-Walker is posted. Find it at: In These Hills #17

Also, don't miss their show at Friday Night Cafe on July 22 along with Sarah Stockwell-Arthen.

And..., as listeners, maybe you know some folks here in Cummington who you think I should interview as part of the series. If so, send along their name(s) and - if you have it - contact info, and I'll see what I can do. I look forward to your suggestions!

All of the episodes can be found at: In These Hills Please share the link with anyone you think might be interested.

Thanks, John Bye

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

Greetings. Yes, it has been a while.

As 2022 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Bryant Free Library, founded in 1872 by William Cullen Bryant, we're planning a little celebration to mark this significant milestone here at the library on Sunday afternoon August 14th, from 3 to 5 PM. We'll have a few tents set up on the lawns, some nice keyboard music by John "Burnsie" Burns, presentations by some of the Trustees and the Librarian, and a few other fun things. The challenge we face will be the very limited parking here, as we can't have any cars parked along either Route 9 or 112. So we'd like to encourage anyone who may be planning on joining us to try to do so without a car if at all possible. If you must come by car, please try to car-pool. We'll put as many as we can in the driveways of both the library and librarian's house, as well as on the lawns. But that's the best we can do. We do hope you'll find a way to get here.

While I've got your attention, I'd just like to add that we currently have museum passes for the Clark, Mass MoCA, and a discount pass for the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Mark

Friday Night Café and Community Contradance

July is a busy month at the Friday Night Cafe. First up is a special Friday Night Cafe on Saturday Night. On Saturday, July 2 from 7 - 9 at the pavilion in Pettingill Memorial Park in beautiful downtown Cummington Steve Howland is our Caller and he's bringing a three piece band. Everyone is welcome. Come dance with your family, friends and neighbors.

Then on Friday, July 8, One Part Luck will play from 6:30 - 8:00 at the pavilion. It's a hometown gig. They'll have some new material along with their old familiars, and they always love playing for y'all.

And, on Friday, July 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 come on out for a fun double bill with Sarah Stockwell-Arthen taking the first set and John Walker Jr. and Shevaun Keogh-Walker closing out the evening. It will be classic folk and blues by some of our most musical neighbors.

All of this brought to you once again by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music - and dancing - can be powerful forces for building community.



JIM K



THE PLANTS

From left: Brendon, Josh and Andrew

Cumington Reflections

If you come early to the contradance at Pettingill Field, on July 2 you can catch the opening reception for Cumington Reflections, the exciting public art installation along Main St. You can tour the nine sites, some of the artists will be on hand to talk about their work, and there will be time for snacks and conversation at the Gazebo. The opening runs from 5:00 - 7:00. You can find out more about the art installation and the Cultural District effort at Cumington Reflections Following the opening, come on down to the pavilion for the contradance. It will be a great evening of community and culture. See you there.

Some of the art on view:



Indigenous Voices

From the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts

We strongly recommend that you look at this series of short documentary films about Native history and contemporary life in Massachusetts, produced by Jennifer Lee from Plainfield and directed by Robbie Lepzer. There is an outstanding teacher guide that accompanies it. The hope is that schools can use these in classrooms but really all ages will learn a great deal.

Please pass this to other people. It's a rare and much needed resource. <https://nolumbekaproject.org/indigenous-voices/>

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Summer Sundays at the Village Church, Cumington



WITH THE CAMPERS FROM

The Greenwood Music Camp

Since 1940 the Village Church has been blessed by Sunday visits from the students at the nearby Greenwood Music Camp. On Sundays in July they join our interfaith service with their voices and instruments. You are invited to come enjoy their beautiful music on **July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7**. It's a wonderful experience you won't forget.

SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE VILLAGE CHURCH STARTS AT 10 AM
32 MAIN STREET, CUMMINGTON, MA
cumingtonvillagechurch.org

Masks are optional. We will have the windows open.